

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6674

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USIAC

FOR M/MED FOR PAT HAYNES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AMED

SUBJ: SACAC GRANT FOR FY 77

REF: SINGAPORE 2178

1. EMBASSY AND SACAC WISH TO PRESENT FIRM REQUEST FOR \$25,000 GRANT FOR FY-77. TWO-YEAR FUND RAISING DRIVE BY SACAC NOW UNDERWAY BUT BOTH SACAC AND AMERICAN SCHOOL CAUGHT IN FINANCIAL PINCH CAUSED BY EXODUS OF FAMILIES DUE CUTBACK IN OIL EXPLORATION INDUSTRY. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT HAS DROPPED TO ABOUT 1450 FROM PEAK OF 2050 IN JANUARY 76 AND DECLINE IN NUMBER OF AMERICAN FIRMS MAY CAUSE REDUCTION IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO SACAC FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY. SCHOOL ALREADY PLANS TO CUT COUNSELORS FROM FIVE TO TWO.

2. DRUG SITUATION IN SINGAPORE REMAINS SAME WITH ALL DRUGS, INCLUDING NO. 3 HEROIN, STILL INEXPENSIVE AND READILY AVAILABLE. LOCAL PAPERS REPORT INCREASE IN DRUG ARRESTS AND SEIZURES. SO FAR NO AMERICAN YOUTHS INVOLVED THIS SCHOOL YEAR, BUT SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THERE IS SOME DRUG ABUSE BY A FEW STUDENTS. THERE ARE ALSO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS

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OF DRUG SALES AT OR NEAR AMERICAN SCHOOLS.

3. WHATEVER FINAL ENROLLMENT AND STATE OF OIL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES, U.S. COMMUNITY REMAINS LARGEST IN SINGAPORE (APPROXIMATELY 8,000) AND ONE BILLION OF U.S. INVESTMENT STILL IN PLACE. NEED FOR USG SUPPORT FOR DRUG PREVENTION/COUNSELING EFFORT OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY CONTINUES. DEPARTMENT'S GRANTS TO SACAC FOR FY-76 AND TQ TOTALLED \$26,880. IN REFTEL EMBASSY/SACAC ESTIMATED THAT FY-77 GRANT OF \$18,000 WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONTINUE PROGRAM AT PREVIOUS LEVEL. HOWEVER DUE TO INCREASED OPERATING EXPENSES, SACAC REQUESTS AND EMBASSY ENDORSES A FY-77 GRANT FOR \$25,000.

4. SACAC'S PROJECTED BUDGET FOR FY-77 IS \$70,000. THIS BREAKS DOWN INTO \$10,000 FOR OPERATING EXPENSES, \$5,000 FOR PROGRAM EXPENSES AND \$55,000 FOR SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR FOUR EMPLOYEES -- ADMINISTRATOR/COUNSELOR, YOUTH COUNSELOR, CHAUFFEUR AND SECRETARY. MOST OF THE AMOUNT UNDER SALARY AND BENEFITS ARE FOR ADMINISTRATOR AND YOUTH COUNSELOR AND COULD BE CONSIDERED PROGRAM COSTS SINCE BULK OF SACAC PROGRAM INVOLVES THESE TWO IN COUNSELING, EDUCATION, AND ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT INFORM EMBASSY ASAP WHETHER \$25,000 GRANT FOR FY-77 FEASIBLE. IF FULL GRANT LIKELY TO BE DELAYED, EMBASSY REQUESTS PARTIAL GRANT AS INTERIM STEP WITH REMAINDER OF FUNDS PROCESSED LATER THIS FISCAL YEAR. SACAC NOW FACING CASH FLOW PROBLEM SINCE NEW FUND DRIVE, DELAYED BY CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATORS AND SACAC COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, JUST GETTING UNDERWAY. FUNDS ON HAND SUFFICIENT FOR ONLY THREE MONTHS OPERATION AND FUND RAISING DRIVE IS LONG DRAWN OUT PROCESS AS COMPANIES MUST SEEK APPROVAL OF US HEADQUARTERS. THIS COMPLICATED BY UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC PICTURE AND INCREASED TAX BURDEN ON COMPANIES DUE CHANGE IN U.S. TAX LAW. HOLDRIDGE

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